

INSTITUTIONS

Superintendents and
Boards of Trustees.

MANAGEMENT SHOWN THEREIN.

Dumb and Dumb Students
Well Cared For and
Have Progressed.

Dec. 7.—The forty-first annual report of the superintendent of the State deaf and dumb asylum made its appearance to-day in the hands of the trustees; and the following report for the year ending October 31, 1893:

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It was had power and machinery a cabinet department could be added, and the furniture of the institution could be supplied by it at a small cost, besides giving us an important trait to teach the pupils.

TAILOR SHOP.

Twelve boys are learning tailoring, and though the department has not been long in existence, they do very fair work. Clothing for the indigent is in part made by them, besides a great deal of repairing.

PRINTING OFFICE.

Nineteen boys have received instruction in this office. They get out a weekly paper, print and publish the annual report of the institution, as well as all circulars, stationery, etc., used by the school, besides receiving instruction in the different branches of the trade. In several sections of the State boys who turned their trade in this office are receiving good wages.

FARMING AND GARDENING.

There is perhaps no better calling for a deaf and dumb man than farming and gardening. Eleven boys receive instruction in this so far as our limited surroundings will allow.

DRESSMAKING.

In this department there are twenty-one girls. The sewing for the institution, and making of clothes for indigent girls, is done by them.

ART DEPARTMENT.

Here thirty-four boys and girls receive instruction in crayon, oil painting and water colors. The work will compare very favorably with that of any other school.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

Our method of instruction is what is called the combined system. More attention has been given to oral instruction than in former years. We now have nearly two pupils who are taught orally, and there are 180 in the manual department. The work done in both departments is of high grade and deserves commendation.

APPROPRIATIONS.

At the last meeting of the legislature an appropriation was asked for a new building. It was not allowed, and only about half what was needed for repairs was allowed us. Hence there are today a number of deaf children in the State who are not in school that would be if we had the desired room. Besides, the physician has repeatedly called attention to the crowded condition of our dormitories. In order to relieve this crowded condition in part, and to make room for new admissions, we were forced to take rooms formerly occupied by the teachers. To meet the demands upon us we will require a large building, and at least \$20,000 will be necessary for this purpose.

The annual report of the superintendent and trustees of the Texas institution for the blind made its appearance today. It shows that 160 pupils attended during the year ending October 31, 1893, of whom 97 were girls and 63 boys. The present enrollment is 166, of which 100 are girls and 66 boys, and 107 are State pupils, that is in addition to board, tuition, medical attention by the superintendent, and eye treatment by the oculist, the State pays their railroad fare to and from Austin and furnishes clothes for them while here.

The industrial department, in which the pupils are taught useful occupations, is in a prosperous condition and turned out much work which was readily marketed.

The following, which is the report of the board of trustees, is sufficiently expressive to give the general public an idea of the needs of the institution, while at the same time giving the superintendent, Dr. E. M. Beeton, due credit for the good work he has done in his present capacity:

To Hon. A. C. Culbertson, Governor of Texas:

We submit herewith for your consideration the forty-first annual report of the superintendent of the Texas institution for the blind, and, in addition, beg leave to lay before you our own report, as follows:

We wish to commend to your careful consideration the various suggestions he makes, and trust that you will adopt them in your recommendations to the next legislature. These suggestions are marked by prudence and a thorough understanding of the needs of the institution. They meet with our cordial support and endorsement. His experience and his management of the institution for the blind, his natural fitness for the work and his devotion to duty, lend additional strength to his recommendations; and we feel it our duty, not only to him, but to all interested in the welfare of the institution, to express our satisfaction.

The ease and precision with which he dispatches business marks him as a man of superior executive ability. Resourceful, tactful and attentive, the needs of the institution, while at the same time giving the superintendent, Dr. E. M. Beeton, due credit for the good work he has done in his present capacity:

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prescribed curriculum, he opened a correspondence with some of the oldest and best established schools for the blind in the United States, and as a result the institution now has a course of study equal to that of any school of similar rank, and teachers are required to adhere rigidly to the work prescribed for the grade taught.

Many needed changes and improvements have been made in the school rooms, dormitories, lavatories, bath rooms, store room, dining rooms, kitchen, closets, etc., thereby adding to the health and comfort of all. The sanitary condition of the buildings and grounds has been greatly improved.

The duty of our State government is to provide liberally for the education of the blind, and now so universally recognized that a failure on the part of our lawmakers to do so would be received by the people with condemnation.

We have carefully examined every item in the estimates sent by the superintendent to the comptroller for the maintenance of this institution for the next two years, and are satisfied that this amount will be required for its successful management. The increase in the number of girls in attendance makes it absolutely necessary that additional dormitories be built, and we earnestly recommend that the appropriation asked for be granted.

We heartily endorse the superintendent's suggestion in regard to changing the name from Blind Asylum to Texas School for the Blind. This name would correctly indicate the purposes of the institution, and place it where it of right belongs, among the educational factors of our great commonwealth.

In concluding this our last official communication to you, we take pleasure in saying that a close scrutiny of the details of the management of this institution will show that it has been in full accord with your expressed determination that the laws should be faithfully administered, and the government efficiently maintained at the least cost to the people. We have no doubt that it has been our highest purpose to carry out your wishes, so often expressed, and our task has been rendered agreeable by reason of the hearty co-operation of the superintendent and other officers of the institution. If we merit a share in the credit due you for the successful accomplishment of your general policy, we are gratified. Very respectfully yours,

J. G. Booth, President,
Jno. O. Johnson, V. Pres.,
J. S. Myrick,
R. M. Thomson,
Sam Harlan.

Of the necessity for increased appropriations Superintendent Beeton says:

"Since taking charge of this institution we have done without many things we needed, using the old pianos, organs and smaller instruments, maps, globes, apparatus, etc., much of which is worn and unfit for use. The time has come when the success of the school demands that some new instruments, new apparatus, some books in line and point, must be supplied.

"In estimating the expense of institutions for the blind, we cannot be guided by the amount necessary for other institutions of learning. The following, from the report of the trustees of the Tennessee institution for the blind, is to the point:

"The cost of the Bible in raised print is about eight times as much as the same book printed in the ordinary way. The maps and states used by the blind are ten to fifteen times more expensive than those used in the ordinary schools. In teaching the deaf blind child many things are required by the hand, and shown the boundaries, rivers and cities, all must be taught and examined on this map one by one. For teaching like this, the class practically consists of one pupil, or for the time being, these might be called as there are pupils. In reading, arithmetic, etc., similar inconveniences arise for the want of sight. Exercises on the blackboard are impossible."

"Hence the necessity for a larger appropriation and a greater number of teachers than for an institution having the same number of seeing pupils; and, further, it is a fact, well known to all who have care of the blind, that more attendants are necessary for them than any other class of persons. When out of the school room, the blind girls and boys must be carefully watched all the time to prevent accidents."

Under the heading "A New Departure," Superintendent Beeton has the following to say:

"The work that was exhibited at the institute on June 5 and 6 (written exercises, state work, maps, etc.), was preserved by the teachers in each department and sent to the Dallas fair. This work was placed on exhibition at the fair, that the people of this State might know what blind children are capable of, and that they are capable of accomplishing."

"This was done without expense to the State—the officers, teachers and employees of the institution are cheerfully contributing the means to defray all expenses."

"Our exhibit was artistically arranged, and from newspaper notices, personal letters, and the report from the teacher in charge, it seems the work was a revelation to the public."

"The novel devices for imparting instruction, the thoroughness and high character of the work exhibited, placed this school in its true light before the people."

"The industrial department was well represented in many beautiful and useful articles."

"Miss Bessie Shannon received first premium in crocheting; Miss Julia Jones second."

"The exhibit as a whole was awarded a diploma for general excellence in all departments; and, as it was the first ever sent from this institution, and was in the nature of an experiment, the results are very gratifying to all."

THE REFORMATORY.

To His Excellency Charles A. Culbertson, Governor of Texas:

As required by law, the following is submitted as our biennial report:

The attached report of the superintendent shows in detail the financial condition of the institution. The report of the physician gives you the condition of the health of the inmates and shows the sanitary measures adopted.

We are pleased to state the institution is in excellent condition, financially, morally and otherwise.

We have visited the institution monthly and someone of our officers, and have been most successful in all his efforts to better the condition of the inmates and use economy for the State.

This we believe to be one of the best and most useful of all the State institutions, and is specially service the interests for which it was created; this we believe it is doing in the fullest sense of the word.

We beg to suggest that the last legislature, under a false idea of economy, made a great mistake in failing to make the usual appropriation for a chaplain. No institution in the State stands more in need of moral and religious influence, and the result, the last two years, of this lack of interest by the "State fathers" has been manifestly visible. While the superintendent has been diligent in his efforts to have ministers and religious teachers visit the institution, and while many have accepted the good that should have been had, it has been accomplished, such as would have resulted by the attendance of a regularly paid and employed chaplain. We regard the moral and religious interests of the inmates of supreme importance, and we earnestly suggest that the next legislature see to it that this serious neglect does not again occur.

We renew the recommendation made two years ago that more agricultural land be purchased. This seems to be absolutely necessary, to the end that all the inmates

be worked by the institution on its own account.

For the preservation of the health of the inmates we renew our recommendation, and urge the same, that a hospital for the cost of \$500, and its value will be incalculable.

In looking over the institution in all its details, we are gratified to state that we and the other officers find that the inmates confined to them and everything in first-class condition.

The able superintendent has shown a most excellent judgment, not alone in the management of the inmates, but in the conduct of the farm and the care of the stock and the farm implements. The result shown, to-wit, the products of the farm, the number of stock and the amount of money from labor of the inmates, etc., we feel sure your excellency would be highly gratified if you were to make a personal and critical examination of the institution in detail.

We desire to thank the superintendent for his kindness and courtesy universally exhibited on the occasion of our visits to the institution.

Mr. C. A. Rogers, the efficient bookkeeper and steward of the institution, has kindly served us as secretary of the board, and rendered many kindnesses, for which we are most sincerely thankful.

In closing our official relations with your excellency, we desire to express to you our grateful appreciation for the untiring courtesy and kindness that you have at all times shown us. Very respectfully,

W. C. O'Brien, Chairman;
J. S. Myrick,
A. Matthews.

To His Excellency Charles A. Culbertson, Governor of Texas:

Dear Sir:—As required by law, I herewith submit the fifth biennial report of the house of correction and reformatory. This report embraces a period beginning November 20, 1892, and ending November 1, 1893.

Besides the details regarding the affairs of the institution (financial and otherwise), you will find incorporated tabulated statistics regarding the inmates, stating the crimes with which they were incarcerated, the term of each such inmate, and the very incipency of the institution up to the present time.

In addition to this will be found the reports of the trustees and the physician in charge.

Since making my last report the affairs of the institution have run along smoothly. We have been able to live within the limits of the means allowed us by the Twenty-fifth legislature, and to secure this fact—no small amount of tact has been needed, and an observance of the strictest economy has been necessary.

The constant wear and tear of fixtures and the necessity of repairs, the replacement of this magnitude is necessarily large, and quite considerable sums of money often have to be expended unexpectedly, and, there being no fund provided for such contingencies, the amount of necessity are drawn from the maintenance fund. Likewise money for any improvements necessary has to be taken from this fund. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that the legislature appropriate a larger sum specifically for such contingencies.

During the past two years many improvements have been found necessary. Among them I may mention the despoiling of the building, which did not furnish a sufficient supply of water, and the purchase of a pump specially adapted to deep pumping. The work on the well was done at a cost of \$1000, while the placing of the pump cost \$200. Several new sheds, fences and barns have been erected, and the improved, the net cost of which for the past two years was \$400. Seventy-five dollars was also expended in painting and repairing the roofs of the main buildings.

The agricultural pursuits of the institution for the past two years have been attended with success and profit. The amount of crops raised has been very small, since it is difficult to secure the crops contiguous to those of the State. The crops planted were divided into the different products as follows: Three hundred acres of corn, 100 of wheat, 50 of oats, 100 of cotton, 50 of soybeans, 50 of clover, 50 of alfalfa, 50 of timothy, 50 of hay, 50 of straw, 50 of wood, 50 of fuel, 50 of other products. The net result of the agricultural pursuits of the institution for the past two years being \$3700.

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